

Mr. John T. Elliff  
Select Committee of Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

14 AUG 1984

Dear John:

I am writing in response to your request to  of our office for a statement that Senator Huddleston could make publicly concerning the ban on assassination in Executive Order 12333. In particular you wanted the statement to address the scope of the Executive Order's coverage and the Intelligence Community's compliance with it. We have reviewed closely the statement that you provided with your request and have the following thoughts.

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We believe that the value, if any, of a public debate at this time on the scope of, as well as Intelligence Community compliance with, this prohibition is outweighed by the adverse precedent such a debate would establish. Such a precedent could lead to public debate concerning Executive Order compliance in any matter in which the CIA may have an association. We believe that such a precedent would be extremely dangerous.

As you know the prohibition contained in Executive Order 12333 is explicit. You also know that this is a prohibition with which the Intelligence Community complies. As always, we stand accountable to our Congressional Oversight Committees concerning our compliance with this and every other provision of the Executive Order. Consequently, we think it is not appropriate for the Agency to endorse a public statement for Senator Huddleston defining the scope of an Executive Order, the definition of which is really a Presidential prerogative.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Briggs  
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

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